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From: POLITICO Pro Energy <politicoemail@politicopro.com>
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Subject: Afternoon Energy, powered by America's Natural Gas Alliance: Why Glover Park? - Site hits Obama, Romney for climate 'silence' - Dems ask Commerce to close solar 'loophole'
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By Talia Buford | 9/27/12 2:31 PM EDT

With help from Bob King, Darius Dixon, Darren Goode and Alex Guillén.

BIOFUELS INDUSTRY DEFENDS RFS: The biofuels industry and its allies started circling the wagons in earnest today around EPA's renewable fuels standard, unveiling a new multistate public relations operation called "Fuels America." The campaign aims to protect the program from opponents who cite recent droughts and high corn prices as grounds for demanding temporary waivers from the mandate. The campaign includes three full-page ads in POLITICO this morning. Darius Dixon has the story: <http://politico.pro/PIaYEN>

Former Rep. Jim Greenwood cloaked much of the new campaign in secrecy during a morning conference call, citing his political experience. "I've run campaigns over the last 30 years, and one of the things that I've learned over those 30 years is that we don't signal our tactics. So we're not assigning a dollar figure to our campaign." But he said the campaign will go on for "as long as it takes."

WHY GLOVER PARK? Things got a little testy on the call when Chris Clayton of the Progressive Farmer asked Greenwood to explain why Fuels America had hired Glover Park Group, which was part of an aggressive anti-ethanol campaign in 2008. (See POLITICO coverage from that campaign here: <http://politi.co/ScQGBW>). "What's the rationale for hiring the group that really threw ethanol under the bus in 2008 to pull you out from under the bus in 2012, so to speak?" Clayton asked. Greenwood: "I won't support the last part of your characterization insofar as being pulled out from under the bus. However, having said that, Glover Park is good. They know the issue. They've changed their focus and we're glad to have them on our side."

Welcome to Afternoon Energy. I'm your host Andrew Restuccia, standing in for Talia Buford for the week. We're still reeling over a recent Entertainment Weekly article about Matt Damon's new movie that describes fracking as "a complicated term that basically means drilling for oil." [The article: <http://bit.ly/Q1chyE>] Not quite, EW.

Please pass along your energy news to arestuccia@politico.com. Follow me on Twitter too: @AndrewRestuccia. And while you're at it, follow us at @POLITICOPro and @Morning_Energy.

SITE HITS OBAMA, ROMNEY FOR CLIMATE 'SILENCE': Forecast the Facts and Friends of the Earth Action have launched a website aimed at pressuring President Barack Obama and Mitt Romney to talk about climate change. "National elections should be a time when our nation considers the great challenges and opportunities the next president will face. But the climate conversation of 2012 has been defined by a deafening silence," the website says. The site: <http://bit.ly/S1XaZH>

SPEAKING OF CLIMATE: The League of Conservation Voters, the Environmental Defense Fund, the Sierra Club and other groups dropped off 160,000 petitions calling on Jim Lehrer to ask Romney and Obama about climate change at next week's presidential debate.

NEW LCV AD: The LCV also announced a \$600,000 television ad buy targeting Rep. Francisco Canseco (R-Texas) "for voting to provide tax cuts for millionaires like him while slashing job-creating investments in clean energy." <http://bit.ly/SDTuxa>

DEMS ASK COMMERCE TO CLOSE SOLAR 'LOOPHOLE': Eight Democrats — including Sen. Ron Wyden and House Ways and Means ranking member Sander Levin — wrote to the Commerce Department today asking officials to "close a loophole in its preliminary decision to crack down on illegal trade practices by Chinese solar panel manufacturers." <http://1.usa.gov/PstKPn>

AFP PRESSURES VIRGINIA DELEGATION ON PTC: Americans for Prosperity Virginia State Director Audrey Jackson urged the Virginia delegation to block an extension of the production tax credit for wind. "Hardworking Virginians deserve an energy policy that is based on market principles, not one that is based on extending handouts to politically connected industries, such as the wind PTC. Enacting policies that threaten electrical grid reliability and drive up energy prices is not why they sent you to Washington," Jackson wrote in a letter to the delegation Wednesday. <http://bit.ly/Qf4oUH>

NEW PAVILLION DATA, MORE QUESTIONS: The Associated Press says yesterday's U.S. Geological Survey release of groundwater data in Pavillion, Wyo., leaves lots of unanswered questions. "The meaning of reams of new data from groundwater testing in a remote Wyoming gas field where the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sparked concern last year will be a matter of interpretation," the story says. "Does the new science shore up damnation of hydraulic fracturing ... or does it refute criticism of the technique as too much anxious hand-wringing?" <http://bit.ly/QfmuPv>

WHY CANADIAN OIL SANDS ARE SUCH A BIG DEAL: "84 percent of the world's remaining oil reserves are either state-owned or controlled. Of the freely accessible leftovers, 62 percent reside in Canada's oil sands." But keep an eye on Brazil, the Globe and Mail writes: <http://bit.ly/PpuTY6>

Don't forget Utah either. The Salt Lake Tribune writes: "Plans for a Book Cliffs tar sands mine — the nation's first fuel-producing one — will be up for final approval next month before the state Water Quality Board." The story: <http://bit.ly/Q3No5i>

P90X TRUMPS ARCTIC SEA ICE LOSS: "TV news covered Paul Ryan's workout over three times more than Arctic sea ice loss. Since June, the major TV news outlets have devoted seven full segments to Paul Ryan's physical fitness and P90X workout routine, and only one to Arctic sea ice loss," according to Media Matters for America research: <http://bit.ly/QqFvZD>

CONTEXTUALIZING CYCLONES: NOAA unveiled a new website today "that could help climate scientists estimate the historical intensities of hurricanes around the world faster than before." The site: <http://bit.ly/UNTJeu>

CFTC COMMENT PERIOD ENDING: Today is the end of the comment period on a CFTC proposal to exempt certain power market transactions from Dodd-Frank derivatives rules. The proposal would cover deals on markets operated by several U.S. grid

operators, known as regional transmission organizations and independent system operators. The proposed order is one of a number of energy-related Dodd-Frank compliance issues the commission is working on. <http://1.usa.gov/OX7Gkd>

LOBBYING NEVER SLEEPS: Despite most members of Congress being long gone from D.C., officials from the Environmental and Energy Study Institute and the National Association for State Community Services Programs are pressing their cases today at the Capitol. They're advocating for the federal Weatherization Assistance Program, which it argues will "continue to help low-income families save money, improve America's energy security and create skilled jobs that cannot be outsourced." (h/t POLITICO Influence.)

ALARMED ABOUT DATA CENTERS: Reps. Henry Waxman, Bobby Rush and Anna Eshoo sent a letter today to Energy Secretary Steven Chu and EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson expressing concern about the energy efficiency of data centers, citing a recent New York Times report that the centers "can waste 90 percent or more of the electricity they pull off the grid." <http://1.usa.gov/QfzdIS>

INTRODUCING POLITICO PRO FINANCE: Starting today, Pro readers will get the latest news on the intersection of Washington and Wall Street via breaking news alerts, quick Whiteboard items and in-depth journalism — plus invitations to Pro-only events. Pro Financial Services readers will get an enhanced version of Morning Money every weekday by 6 a.m. (Non-Pros will get the current version of Morning Money at 8 a.m.) Pro Tax readers will receive an exclusive newsletter intensely focused on tax policy. To learn more, contact Pro Services at (703) 341-4600 or info@politicopro.com.

QUICK HITS:

— ConservAmerica endorses Massachusetts Sen. Scott Brown: <http://bit.ly/QXhXJv>

— The head of Enbridge's pipeline division is calling for "unwavering dedication to having zero leaks." The Calgary Sun: <http://bit.ly/SDRh4C>

— FERC staff faced opposition to natural gas at a recent meeting in Pennsylvania. The Times-Tribune: <http://bit.ly/PHKCmp>

— In the aftermath of Hurricane Isaac, Sen. David Vitter (R-La.) is pushing legislation "that would give parishes the authority to force a utility to sell its assets if it fails to perform." The Fox affiliate in New Orleans has the story: <http://bit.ly/S9giQ9>

— An AP investigation: "New York state regulators claim a strong record of oil and gas drilling oversight, but their own reports reveal thousands of unplugged abandoned wells and other industrial problems that could pose a threat to groundwater, wetlands, air quality and public safety." The story: <http://buswk.co/ScxNPz>

— Bloomberg reports: "Natural gas pipelines coming into service by year's end could boost deliveries from the Marcellus shale deposit in the U.S. Northeast by 30 percent, extending a supply glut that helped send prices to decade lows." The story: <http://bit.ly/QX7Q7x>

**** A message from America's Natural Gas Alliance:** Looking for a career in a growing industry? Try natural gas. Demand for this abundant American resource means that recent graduates of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology are earning more out of school than their Harvard counterparts. Learn more: <http://bit.ly/Ogn1ML> ******

Stories from POLITICO Pro

Pro-RFS forces mount PR campaign

Pro-RFS forces mount PR campaign back

By Darius Dixon | 9/27/12 10:01 AM EDT

The biofuels industry and its allies started circling the wagons in earnest Thursday around EPA's renewable fuels standard, unveiling a new multistate public relations operation.

During a morning conference call, an industry coalition announced its "Fuels America" campaign to protect the program from opponents who cite recent droughts and high corn prices as grounds for demanding temporary waivers from the mandate.

The RFS is under “persistent attack,” said former Rep. Jim Greenwood (R-Pa.), who is now president and CEO of the Biotechnology Industry Organization.

“We also know that the recent drought has given them new ammunition and we recognize that the drought has caused significant hardships, particularly for poultry and livestock farmers and ranchers,” he said in an interview with POLITICO before the Thursday call. “But we do think it’s not wise policy to try to solve that problem by creating a whole set of new problems, and certainly abandoning the RFS for any period of time would create a new set of problems.”

The Glover Park Group has been hired to take point on the new campaign, which will begin running pro-RFS ads Thursday in Ohio, Colorado, Delaware, Montana and Washington, D.C.

Obama administration officials such as Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack have been unequivocal in their support of the RFS, but Congress is another story.

Lawmakers put the biofuels industry on notice when they allowed a blender tax credit to expire last year. And last month, a bipartisan group of senators urged EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson to approve waivers from the RFS in light of this year’s harsh weather.

But Greenwood called on lawmakers to resist the urge to waive the standards, even temporarily.

“Congress has a variety of tools that it can use to try to provide relief for people harmed by the drought, but choosing from among them one that is going to be devastating to another sector just is irrational,” he said, suggesting that aid could come through the appropriations process.

Granting the waivers, he said, would be “pulling the rug out from underneath a whole set of investors and communities” that have come to “rely on a policy that we thought was settled.”

If the biofuels industry is ultimately crippled by the demise of the RFS, Greenwood said he wouldn’t want to have to explain later that, “Well, there was a drought in 2012.”

Ultimately, he said he believed EPA would deny the waivers — so the Fuels America campaign is about maintaining the pro-RFS effort over the long haul.

EPA’s public comment period on the waiver request issue will run until Oct. 11.[back](#)

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